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Major Robert Beverley and His Descendants.

BY W. G. STANARD.

(CONCLUDED.)

Since the preceding instalment of this article was prepared, the writer has had access to the register of Christ Church parish, Middlesex county, now at the Episcopal Theological Seminary, and found a number of entries in relation to the Beverleys. They will be referred to as "Parish Register."

"Major Robert Beverley and Madam Katherine Hone were married in Gloster, March 28th, 1679. Major Robert Beverley [native], of Yorkshire, died March 15th and was buried March 19th, 1686." As the term, "Madam," was not commonly applied to unmarried women, it is possible that Katherine Hone was the widow and not the daughter of Major Theophilus Hone, and that she was the sister of Colonel John Armistead, of Gloucester county.

MAJOR ROBERT¹ and Mary Beverley had issue: 2. *Peter*;² 3. *Robert*;² 4. *Harry*;² 5. Mary, married before June, 1694, William Jones, of King and Queen.

MAJOR ROBERT and Katherine Beverley had issue: 6. William,² baptized January 4th, 1680 (*Parish Register*), married Judith, daughter of Christopher Wormeley and widow of Corbin Griffin, and died between June 3d and August 3d, 1702 (*Middlesex Records*). Whether he left issue is not known. His widow, Judith Beverley, married October 12th, 1703, Christopher Robinson (*Parish Register*.) 7. John,² in 1687 was under the guardianship of his brother, Peter Beverley (*Middlesex Records*); was in England prior to October, 1694, as at that date the executors of Christopher Robinson, executor *de bonis non* of Major Robert Beverley render an account which includes an item of £40 paid to Perry and Lane, of London, merchants, for entertaining and accommodating Major Robert Beverley's sons, Harry, John and Robert. He died without issue (*Hening VIII, 227, &c.*); 8. Thomas,² died September 20th, 1686, and was buried in the Lower Chapel (*Parish Register*). He had no issue (*Hening VIII, 227, &c.*); 9. Christopher,² baptized February 19th, 1686. He was under the guardianship of his brother, Harry Beverley, who, on April 4th, 1704, gave bond as his guardian, in the sum of £3,000 sterling. He was sheriff of King and Queen 1729 (*Council Journal*), and died without issue (*Hening VIII, 227, &c.*); 10. *Catherine*.²

2. COLONEL PETER² BEVERLEY, of Gloucester county, was clerk of

the House of Burgesses 1691-99 (*Hening*), clerk of Gloucester county 1702-14, and probably other years; Speaker of the House of Burgesses 1700-14 (*Hening*); Treasurer of Virginia 1710-23 (*Hening*); appointed a member of the Council in 1719, and died in 1728 (*Sainsbury Abstracts*). Governor Spotswood, writing May 24th, 1716, to William Blathwayt, Auditor-General of the North America Colonies, tells him he has removed his deputy, Philip Ludwell, and recommends as his successor either John Robinson or "Mr. Peter Beverley, who has for several years been Speaker of the House of Burgesses, and is, at present, the Country's Treasurer. They are both persons for method and exactness in their business, and have always behaved themselves respectfully to all ye Governors they have lived under" (*Spotswood Letters* II, 162), and on July 3d he writes that he has determined to appoint Peter Beverley deputy auditor for the interim. Colonel Peter Beverley married Elizabeth, daughter of Major Robert Peyton, of "Isleham," Gloucester county, Virginia, who was a grandson of Sir Edward Peyton, Baronet (*Hayden's "Virginia Genealogies,"* 466-68, and epitaph of Mrs. Elizabeth Randolph, below). If he made a will, it was destroyed with the records of Gloucester county. Issue: 11. *Susanna*; 12. *Elizabeth*.

3. ROBERT² BEVERLEY, of "Beverley Park," King and Queen county, a large estate which had formerly belonged to his father. In an act passed November, 1766, it is stated: "Whereas Robert Beverley, the elder, of the county of Middlesex, gentleman, deceased, was in his lifetime seized of a valuable estate and lands, commonly called and known by the name of Beverley Park, situate in the parish of Drysdale in the counties of King and Queen and Caroline, containing seven thousand six hundred acres," and that 6,000 acres of this devised to Thomas and John Beverley, and an adjoining tract called The Plain, containing 1,200 acres which was inherited by Christopher Beverley, had come, in default of any issue of these persons, to William Beverley, Esquire, eldest son and heir to Robert Beverley, son of the first named Robert Beverley; and that the said William Beverley died seized thereof, leaving issue Robert Beverley, Esq., who was now possessed of the same.

Robert Beverley was clerk of King and Queen county 1699-1702; member of the House of Burgesses for Jamestown 1699, 1700, 1702, 1706, &c. (*Hening* and list in *Virginia Historical Magazine*); was left out of the commission of the peace of King and Queen county in 1705 because he was not then a resident of the county (*Council Journal*), but in 1718 was appointed presiding justice of King and Queen. He was clerk of the Council in 1697, &c., as he states in his history he accompanied Governor Spotswood to the mountains, and was therefore one of the Knights of the Golden Horseshoe. During a visit to London, in 1703, the writing a history of Virginia was suggested to him, and the first edition of his "History of the Present State of Virginia" was published in London in 1705, and a second in 1722.

The diary of John Fontaine, preserved in the "Memoirs of a Huguenot Family," gives an account of a visit to his house at "Beverley Park," in 1715. Fontaine writes:

"*June 11th, 1715.*—We continued on to the other side of the river [the Mattapony], which is King and Queen county.

"*12th.*—Arrived at Mr. Robert Beverley's house, which they reckon from Mr. Baylor's thirty miles. The roads very good. Here we were well received.

"*13th.*—It being blowy and showery we remained here. After breakfast we went to see Mr. Beverley's vineyard. This Beverley is the same that made the History of Virginia. When we were in his vineyard we saw several sorts of vines which are natural, and grew here in the woods. This vineyard is situated upon the side of a hill and consists of about three acres of land; he assures us that he made this year about four hundred gallons of wine. He hath also canes and a wine press; but according to the method they use in Spain, he hath not the right method for it, nor his vineyard is not rightly managed. He hath several plants of French vines among them.

"*14th.*—The weather was very bad, and rained hard. We were very kindly received. We diverted ourselves within doors, and drank very heartily of the wine of his own making, which was good; but I find by the taste of the wine that he did not understand how to make it. This man lives well; but though rich, he has nothing in or about his house but what is necessary. He hath good beds in his house, but no curtains; and instead of cane chairs, he hath stools made of wood. [This was a very exceptional case, for the inventories of the time show in most houses a great number of good chairs.] He lives upon the product of his land.

"*15th.*—Blowing weather. Mr. Beverley would not suffer us to go. He told me the reason he had for making so large a vineyard was, that about four years ago he made a wager with the gentlemen of the country, who thought it impossible to bring a vineyard to any perfection. The following was the agreement: If he would give them one guinea then, in hand, they would give him ten, if in seven years' time, he could cultivate a vineyard that would yield at one vintage, seven hundred gallons of wine. Mr. Beverley gave a hundred guineas upon the above-mentioned terms, and I do not in the least doubt but next year he will make the seven hundred gallons. [Beverley in his History, edition 1722, states there was a vineyard in Virginia, evidently meaning his own, which had made 750 gallons at one vintage.] We were very merry with the wine of his own making, and drank prosperity to the vineyard.

"*16th.*—Mr. Beverley detained us and we went out a hunting. We saw several deer but could kill none. We shot some squirrels and part-

ridges, and went round a great tract of land that belongs to him, and returned home. We passed the time away very agreeably, and so to bed.

"17th, Sunday.—About ten of the clock we mounted our horses, Mr. Beverley with us, and we went about seven miles to his Parish Church, where we had a good sermon from a Frenchman named Mr. De Latiné, who is minister of the parish. After service we returned to Mr. Beverley's house and finished the day there.

"18th.—Mr. Beverley's son hindered us from proceeding on our journey this day by promising to set out with us the next morning; so we took our guns and went a hunting * * * and so returned to our friend's house, and passed away the evening merrily.

"19th.—In the morning, about nine of the clock, we mounted our horses and took leave of Mr. Beverley. His son came with us."

The party which was lead by Governor Spotswood to explore the mountains, also halted at "Beverley Park," and was joined by their host. Their first camp was called "Camp Beverley," in his honor. If he made a will it was destroyed with the records of King and Queen county.

Robert Beverley married Ursula, daughter of Colonel William Byrd, of "Westover." Her tomb was formerly in the churchyard at Jamestown, but has now entirely disappeared. The following copy of the epitaph is from an old newspaper:

[Arms.]

"Here lyeth the body of
Ursula Beverley late wife of Robert
Beverley, daughter of ye Hon'ble
Col. William Byrd, who departed
this life the last day of October
1698, being much lamented of all
that knew her. Aged 16 years, 11
months and 2 daies."

Issue: 13. *William*.³ (It has been stated, on what authority I do not know, that this Robert Beverley also had a daughter, Ursula, who married John Dudley, of Hanover county; but the early age at which his wife died would render it probable she had only one child.)

4. CAPTAIN HARRY⁴ BEVERLEY was appointed a justice of Middlesex in 1700, and was surveyor of King and Queen and King William counties 1702-1714. There is recorded in the *Council Journal* a report dated April 30th, 1713, of Philip Ludwell and Nathaniel Harrison, commissioners for surveying the North Carolina boundary line, in which is the following item: "To Harry Beverley, surveyor, for 38 days' attend-

ance of himself and his servant with his instruments for the discovery of the Latitude of the several places, by both governments £38" due.

In the summer of 1716 Spotswood fitted out a sloop, named the *Virgin*, which he put under the command of Captain Harry Beverley, with instructions to go to the Bahamas and the Isle of Providence in quest of pirates, Spanish wrecks, &c. The Governor sent a copy of the instructions to Beverley which were dated June 5th, to the English authorities. The day after sailing "she was surprised with a violent hurricane and drove as far eastward as Bermuda." On the fifth day the sloop was taken by a Spanish man-of-war (though the countries were at peace), rifled, and the men stript, abused and made prisoners. Captain Beverley wrote from St. Domingo that he had petitioned for a trial, but had been refused, and that all he had to expect was that he and his men would be sent to the mines. He and his crew were taken to Vera Cruz, where a trial was still refused, and no subsistence was allowed him or his men, but what the Assiento factory [the English agency under the Assiento treaty] bestowed out of charity. Several of the men perished for want of necessaries, and many of them were reduced to beg about the street till they could find an opportunity of getting off. After seven months' imprisonment Beverley escaped, and reached Virginia shortly before August, 1717 (*Spotswood Letters* II, 245, 250, 259, and *Sainsbury Abstracts*). Though ostensibly the chief object of this voyage was to obtain information in regard to the pirates or to attack them, yet it seems probable that the real one was treasure hunting, after the manner of Phipps. Indeed, "Spanish wrecks" are mentioned in the instructions to Beverley. Mrs. Elizabeth Churchill, in her will, dated November 9th, 1716, provides that if Mr. Harry Beverley brings back any moneys or other returns from the wrecks, her share should go to certain of her grandchildren (*Middlesex Records*).

Captain Beverley probably removed to Spotsylvania county about 1720. In a deed recorded in Essex and dated 1728, he styles himself "of Newlands," Spotsylvania county, and was for a number of years presiding justice of Spotsylvania [*County Records*]. He died 1730. He married about 1700 Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Robert Smith, of "Brandon," Middlesex, and granddaughter of Major-General Robert Smith, of "Brandon," who was long a member of the Council, and died in 1687.

The following is a copy of the will of Harry Beverley from the recorded copy at Spotsylvania Courthouse:

In the name of God Amen; I Harry Beverley of the Parish of St. George in the county of Spotsylvania, being sick in body but of sound and perfect mind & memory, thanks be to Almighty God for it Do make, constitute and appoint this to be my last will and testament in manner and form following, vizt.—I recommend my soul into the hands of Almighty God, hoping through the merits of the Death & passion of my

ever blessed lord and Saviour Jesus Christ to enjoy everlasting bliss and happiness, and my body to the earth to be buried in such decent manner as shall please my executor hereafter named, and as for the Disposing of all such estate as it hath pleased God to bestow upon me I give and bequeath as followeth—

I will that all my Debts and funerall charges be fully paid and Satisfied.

Item. I give to my daughter Elizabeth Stanard & her heirs forever the lower part of my tract of land on the River Tae in Spotsylvania county; that is, all that part of the said land that lies below the branch that is next and below Col. John Robinson's bridge, and so up that branch eighty poles & thence north east to the outermost bounds of the tract.

Item. I give to my daughter Mary all the rest and residue of the above said tract of land to her and to her heirs forever, also two negro slaves named Joshua & Cloe & their increase & my riding horse over & above her equal share of my slaves & personal estate in consideration for her services eleven years as my House Keeper.

Item. I give to my daughter Margaret & to her heirs forever my tract of land called Cowland on the River Poe, also four hundred acres out of my Pamunkey tract, after each of her sisters land of a thousand acres given in this my will is laid off, the said four hundred acres to be laid off in a compact figure, in what part of the remainder of the said tract she pleases.

Item. I give to my daughter Susanna and to her heirs forever, one thousand acres of land, out of my Pamunkey tract to include the Plantation whereon Michael Pearson now lives to be laid off as near a square as may be conveniently.

Item. I give to my Daughter Catherine and to her heirs forever One thousand acres of land, out of my Pamunkey tract to be laid off next above her sister Judith's land on the river as near a square as may be.

Item. I give to my Daughter Judith & to her heirs forever one thousand acres of land out of my Pamunkey tract to be laid off Joining to the land I sold to Andrew Harrison and up the river within half a mile of Stonehorse run.

Item. I give to my daughter Agatha & to her heirs forever one thousand acres of land to be taken out of my Pamunkey tract in what part she pleases in a compact figure that is not already in this my will given away.

Provided notwithstanding, that if there should be any copper ore, silver mine or mines found within twenty years after my decease on any part of my aforesaid Pamunkey tract of land whether before bequeathed in this my will or not; together with fifty acres of land adjoining. It is my will and I give the same among all my children and their Representatives in the following manner vizt: To my son Robert and to his

heirs forever two shares & to each of my daughters & to their heirs forever one share.

Item. It is my will that what slaves any of my daughters have already had shall be valued at the worth they were off when they had them and be accounted for upon the division.

Item. All the rest of my lands not before disposed of in this my will, I give and bequeath to my son Robert and to his heirs forever.

Item. All the rest and residue of my slaves, money & all manner of chattills, I desire may be equally divided amongst all my children.

Item. I do make and appoint my son Robert my whole and sole Executor of this my last will and testament. Witness my hand & seal this thirteenth day of November in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and thirty.

HARRY BEVERLY { Seal. }

Signed, sealed & delivered in the presence of us.

JOHN GORDEN,
His
JOHN IH. HENDERSON,
Mark.
His
WILLIAM X CHAPMAN,
Mark.
His
THOMAS T. S. SELLARS,
Mark.

At a Court held for Spotsylvania County on Tuesday, February 2nd, 1730-1.

This will being sworn to by Robert Beverly Gent. Executor therein named, was proved by the oaths of John Gordon, John Henderson, William Chapman and Thomas Sellars and admitted to record.

Teste:

JOHN WALLER, Cl'k Court.

A true copy teste:

J. P. H. CRISMOND, C. C.

Issue: 14. *Elizabeth*,^a 15. *Robert*,^a 16. *Susanna*,^a 17. *Mary*,^a 18. *Catherine*,^a born December 7th, 1708 (*Parish Register*); 19. *Judith*,^a 20. Peter, born July 2d, 1712 (*Parish Register*), died before his father; 21. Agatha, born September 22d, 1716 (*Parish Register*), married in 1737, William Robinson (*Spotsylvania Records*), of Spotsylvania county, said to have been a brother of Speaker John Robinson; 22. *Anne*,^a 23. *Margaret*.^a

The following letter from Captain Harry Beverley, in relation to his

capture, is preserved among the Virginia records in the capitol at Richmond:

"Sr. The argum'ts that I shall make use of, if ever I have any tryall will be that all the advantage we expected from wrecks, was to find Some on the Bahamas in the King of England's Dom'n, where we had the news in Virginia, of wrecked goods being found—And that the Arms were put on board to Secure us from Pyrates, who were likely to spoyl ye Virginia Salt trade, and would equally be dangerous to the Spanish Mec't Ships—And what I guess ye Courteous Don expects to Shelter himself under is, what Serv'ts and Indian Slaves I had on board for the sake of their freedom, have told them—that I was bound to flordia to join ye Jamaica men, w'ch was never my Intent & wholly Contrary to my Instructions as my approach being * * [illegible] in ye main Ocean nearest Bermudas of any land—they fired three Shott at us, ye English Ensigns being spread on board us, before they Comanded us on board them, w'ch came very near, but did us no harm; w'ch together w'th their other injurys, how far it may make them guilty of Piracy, I submit to your Hono'rs Judgm't. The Chief Comander is a frenchman born, has a wife and family in Madrid and Intends to go home from La Vera Crux—being forced to write in hast, and in a crowd of mulattos, hope yo'r goodness will pardon the Scribble and rudeness of these from

Yo'r Hon'ors ever most obedient Ser'vt &c.

"All that I can be certain of gaining by ye voyage, is a Certain Antidote ag'st Popery. We have ridiculous prayers to St. Ignatius, and ye rest of their S'ts twice a day, and a General Swearing, lying, Cursing, Stealing, Cheating and all manner almost of vice all ye rest of ye day & night."

10. CATHERINE⁸ BEVERLEY married Hon. John Robinson, of "Piscataqua," Essex county (son of Christopher Robinson, of "Hewick," Middlesex, Secretary of State and member of the Council, and nephew of John Robinson, Bishop of London. See *Virginia Historical Magazine*, July, 1895, page 3, &c.) He was born 1683; was, when a young man, in England under the charge of his uncle, Bishop Robinson (*Spotswood Letters*); was a justice of Middlesex 1706, appointed to the Council in 1720, and as President of that body was acting Governor in 1749, when he died. He married secondly, Mary, widow of Thomas Welch and of Francis Merriwether, of Essex, and daughter of Launcelot Bathurst, but had no issue by this marriage. He was the father of John Robinson, long Speaker of the House of Burgesses, of Colonel Beverley Robinson, of New York, and others.